

# ***Point three***

Happy Christmas  
to all our readers



**December 1994**

The magazine of **TOCH**





## Point three



### The Magazine of Toc H

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Revd P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world, as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H movement.

*Point three* is available from Toc H Headquarters. Price: 30p per copy or £3.60 per annum. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

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Photo: Ruth Boyd



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## The One Who Truly Understands

*'The trouble with Jesus was that he did not take his mission seriously enough. He kept going off by himself. He used to wake up early in the morning and disappear into the wilderness. We'd spend hours looking for him before we could get on with the job. Then there was that famous occasion when he went to sleep while the rest of us were fighting for our lives in a raging storm. Faced with a problem, if he wasn't asleep, or missing, he'd just gaze up into heaven. As if that would help!*

*His communication skills were woefully deficient. Sure, he could hold a crowd, and raise a few laughs with his jibes at the Pharisees. Few understood the point of all his stories, though. He was rude to important guests, and actually discouraged people from joining us. He made it far too costly to become a member. His image with the people who mattered was terrible, and the rest had all the wrong ideas about him. Towards the end, he lost any sense of judgement. He let himself be trapped. He refused to either retaliate or co-operate. No wonder he was done away with.*

*I cannot understand how his Movement has survived all these years: few effective partnerships, no Strategic Plan, no proper marketing, far too demanding of staff. It should have exhausted its resources years ago...!*

The trouble with Jesus was that He prayed. The good news is that He made it possible for all of us to pray too. Prayer earths our lives in the One who truly understands, loved, and loves us and the universe we inhabit. This One loves madly, deeply, and for ever. A Plan without prayer is out of touch with reality. Thank God that Jesus still prays, and calls us to join Him.

Over the last year many in Division One have been renewing their commitment to pray in a host of ways: prayer guides, times, cells, chains, quiet days, weekends.... Do join in. Let the National Chaplaincy Team know if you need more information. Above all, for your own sake, for the Movement's sake, for the world's sake, for God's sake:

*'...always pray, and don't give up....' (Luke 18:1ff)*

**Revd David Mayhew**

**Editor's Note:** David leaves the staff at the end of December to become Vicar of Mitford, in Northumberland, and a chaplain at Northgate Hospital, a hospital for people with learning difficulties. He will, of course, be remaining a member of the Movement.



# Looking Forward

**I** am delighted that Central Council has confirmed my appointment as National Chaplain for a further five years.

The last five years have been a busy and an interesting time. We have looked inwards, examined our motives and purposes, re-examined our aims and clarified our vision. We have laboured to set in place the essential policies that define the Movement and its intentions:

- a **Focus Resolution** stating the *what* of Toc H,
- the definition of **Methods** stating the *how* of Toc H,
- a **Strategic Plan** defining the *where* Toc H is going - with all of the faith and risks that Plan includes.

Underlying everything is the **Statement of Re-Affirmation**, clarifying the *why* of Toc H.

**H**aving spent time looking inwards, now is the time for us all to take Toc H confidently into our hands and give it away to as many people as possible, secure in our knowledge of what we stand for and certain that our modern world desperately needs what Toc H has to offer.

For me as National Chaplain, the Statement of Re-Affirmation has been, and will continue to be, the basis of my ministry and the next five years will see four major elements to my work:

## ■ Pastoral care:

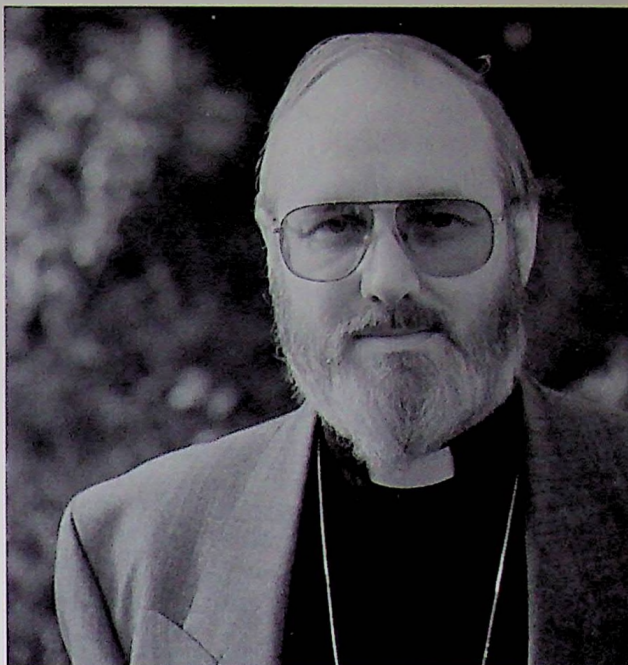
I shall continue to try to offer pastoral support and help to Members and staff throughout the Movement.

## ■ Internal communication and spiritual development:

I shall continue to try to visit as many Districts and Toc H groups as possible and offer a programme of events and materials which I hope will remind, stimulate and challenge Members and all those involved with Toc H, that the Movement is about all Four Points of the Compass.

## ■ External communication and spiritual development.

I shall place a greater emphasis on giving Toc H away by telling others about the Movement. Through speaking engagements, written articles, visiting organisations, conferences and offering our own



*Journey of Discovery* programme as well as our other experiences, I shall tell people of this wonderful Movement and what it can do for them.

## ■ Reminding everyone, at every level of the Movement, that Toc H is about a way of life.

As a Principal Officer, I shall continue to play my part in the structures of Toc H. Not as a manager or an administrator, but as a support and a challenge. The support will be my prayers and, hopefully, my availability. The challenge will be my constant reminder, particularly in policy-making, and at all levels in the Movement, that Toc H must guard its ethos and particularly its Christian basis against any temptation to reduce the challenges or compromise the principles.

St Paul opens his letter to the Philippians by saying, *I thank my God whenever I think of you...and this is my prayer, that your love may grow ever richer and richer...*

**M**y own feelings about the last five years and my future ministry with you all cannot be expressed in better terms. Please pray for me as I shall pray for you and our whole future under God.

Revd J Alan Johnson



# Central Council - 1994

There was a very happy and business-like atmosphere at this year's Central Council, despite the building work being undertaken at The Hayes Conference Centre - a warm feeling of tolerance and goodwill. This was highly appropriate, because the general theme of the Conference seemed to echo Mike Lyddiard's entreaty 'to go forward in faith and trust' at this, his first Council as Director.

Conference began on Friday 4 November with a Question and Answer session after supper with **Don Cullen**, a member of the planning team, as the question master for the session - a very popular choice. The panel taking questions included **Mike Lyddiard**, **Alan Johnson**, **Tim Day**, **Arthur Heffernan** and **Judi Ranson**.

Mike spoke about our public profile and the urgent need to substantially increase our membership. There were questions about the cost of mailing leaflets and general information to members, and an assurance was given that a lot of effort is put into keeping costs to a minimum. The shortage of project leaders was discussed, and **Judi Ranson** stressed the importance of making a determined effort to identify potential leaders, citing her own example of taking on more responsibility because she had been asked personally. It was emphasised that Toc H has a mandate which requires each project to have two leaders. Another question suggested that Toc H should focus in one specific area in order to create a more recognisable identity in the public eye and to raise our profile. Mike stressed that the time-honoured way of going out and personally asking people to get involved with our work was still the way forward.

Saturday began with a welcome from the Chairman, **Mary Edwards**. The Executive Secretary **Stewart Casimir** then read out the Royal messages from Buckingham Palace and Clarence House. The supportive greeting from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was particularly thoughtful and is reproduced above right:

This year there were 16 visitors who were not Councillors. Council proceedings began with matters arising from the minutes of the 1993 Council. This opened with **Anne Puddicombe**, Chair of the North East Region, who gave an interim report from the working party examining the problems arising from branches being considered a method as well as part of the policy structure of Toc H. The working party had met for the first time in October and would be reporting to the 1995 Central Council with their suggestions.

Matters discussed to date had included the question of centrally registering membership - which would make communication easier and would dispense with the need for some local offices, the potential to register membership



CLARENCE HOUSE  
S.W. 1

28th September 1994

Dear Mr Lyddiard

Thank you for your letter which I have laid before Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

The Queen Mother was most touched by the sentiments you expressed and Her Majesty sends to all those members of the Central Council present at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick in November her best wishes for a happy and successful weekend.

Queen Elizabeth was most interested in your resume of Toc H activities during the past months and Her Majesty congratulates you on all that has been achieved. The Friendship Circles are obviously most successful and the work you are carrying out in the North-West and in Northamptonshire will help so many deprived families or those who are physically disabled.

The Queen Mother sends you and all associated with Toc H her best wishes for the future continuance of your dedicated work.

*Anna Sandy* *Stewart Casimir*

Private Secretary to  
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Mike Lyddiard Esq  
Director



Stewart Casimir

through different methods, the role of Central Councillors and the possibility of changes in the structure of regions - which might reduce the current practise of people, sometimes of necessity, having to hold more than one office.

Another matter which still needed further comment was Toc H's international relationships. This followed a request



in 1993 for the establishment of stronger links with the extended family of Toc H. Progress was to be reported to the 1994 Council: *'Council instructs the CEC to examine ways by which relations between all the independent representative organisations of Toc H, both in the UK and overseas, might be strengthened and, once identified, to open a dialogue with the parties concerned.'*

**Stewart Casimir** reported that the CEC had discussed this topic at length over the past year, and had proposed a draft remit and time frame for an International Conference in 1996.

**George Davis** (Southern Region), who was in sparkling form for his 86 years, expressed his regret that it would be two years before any international arrangements were made. **Mary Edwards** stressed that we already have strong international links with the wider family.

**Jean Whiteman** (CEC) reported on the Charities Act requirement that all branch accounts must be submitted to Headquarters, and that branches which failed to comply with the terms of the Charities Act would be closed. She congratulated Regional Treasurers on their sterling work in 1994, and announced that branch accounts had come in very punctually this year. She urged branches to keep up the good work.

This concluded matters arising from the last year's minutes.

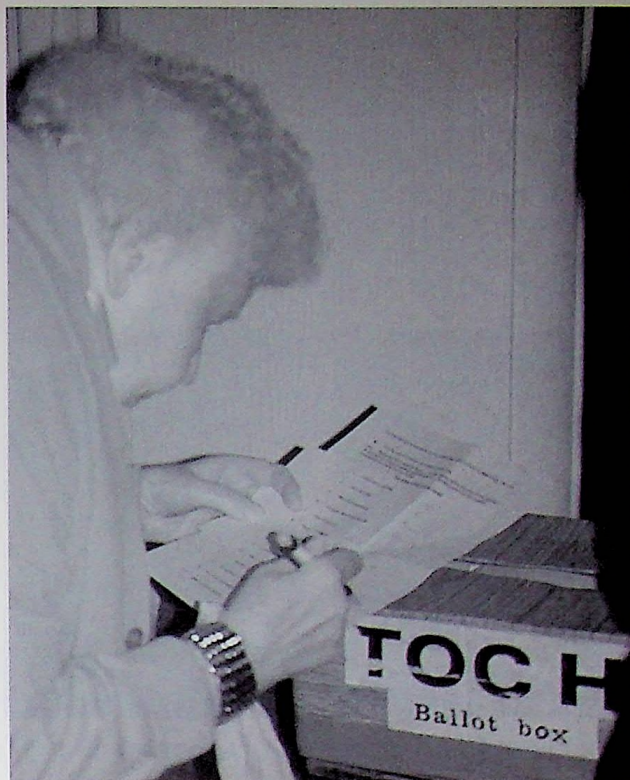
## The appointment of the CEC for 1994/1995

**Paul Godley** Financial Administrator/Deputy Field Officer (Germany) introduced the motion to appoint 12 members to the CEC, which **Pat Turner** seconded.



Paul Godley

The photo below shows **Sylvia Collyer** (South East Region) making her choice.



Sylvia Collyer

## The 1994/95 CEC line-up.



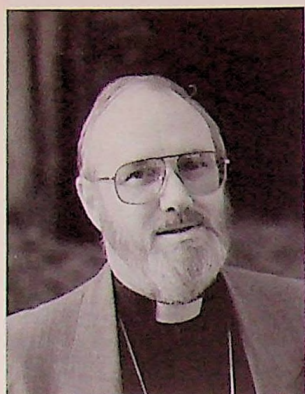
From left to right: **Matthew Plumridge**, **Pat Turner**, **Jeremy Topham**, **Paul Godley**, **Di Claxton**, **Neal Terry**, **Jean Whiteman**, **Ian Moore**, **John Cox**, **Mary Edwards**, **Judi Ranson**, **Helen James**. Standing behind Helen is co-opted member, **Nick Howden**.

## Appointment of the National Chaplain

The five-year term of office of the National Chaplain had come to an end at this year's Council. **Jean Whiteman** proposed the appointment of the **Revd Alan Johnson** for a further five years, until the end of Central Council 1999. She spoke of his considerable support in giving spiritual direction to the Movement during his term of office, highlighting his contribution to the Statement of Re-Affirmation, the Lambeth Palace Reception, and the



St Martin-in-the-Fields service in celebration of 75 years of the Movement. She emphasised that his commitment to, and belief in, Toc H had never wavered. This was echoed by **Judi Ranson** in seconding the motion, who said that Alan was, 'unreservedly dedicated to the Movement', an asset to the CEC and had contributed meaningful and thoughtful services. Three people expressed their concern that there wasn't a choice of candidates and would have liked more ecumenical representation in the Movement, but they supported the motion. Alan was duly elected for a further five years. (see article on page 3)



Alan Johnson



Jean Whiteman

## The CEC Report to Council

**Arthur Heffernan** began his report by mentioning that he was standing down as Vice-Chairman, having served his full five years as a CEC member. He thanked members, the CEC and staff for their support.



Arthur Heffernan

In reading the CEC Report to Council, he highlighted the signs of growth that had resulted from the investment in new staff in Division One. **George Davis** welcomed this, but asked for more details and queried whether the new appointments had had practical results in terms of membership growth. Arthur pointed out that the new staff needed a fair chance to do their job, following their training period, and that it was too early to give a fair assessment of their success. He stressed that 'getting people into Toc H and Toc H into people' took time.

**Harry Brier** (Vice-President) stressed the need to follow up young people who had been involved in Toc H through projects. He felt that a lot more effort could be made to get people involved in the Movement.

**Freda Parker** (Mid Eastern Region) spoke warmly about the new staff and the 'tremendous encouragement they give to us old stagers'.

**Dick Stayman** (Vice-President) supported the decision made last year to spend some of our resources in order to ensure our survival as a Movement.

**Doug Geater Childs** (West Midlands and South Wales Region) was assured by Mike Lyddiard that the work of the Division One staff was being closely monitored.

The Hon Treasurer, **Gerry Conibeer**, then gave a detailed summary of the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 1994. He said that the presentation differed this year because it reflected the need to conform to the Charities Act. He felt that the new rules were helpful to Toc H because they enabled us to see a clearer picture of the whole Movement. For example, branch work was a new item in this year's accounts.



Gerry Conibeer

**Pat Turner** expressed concern that branches often raised money for other charities which was needed by Toc H itself. **Gerry Conibeer** agreed that 'charity begins at home'.

**Nora Bloxham** (Trustee) took Light after lunch and spoke most movingly about the deep meaning of the traditional words in the ceremony, and of the large number of devoted members who had died this year.

**Gerry Conibeer** then concluded his report on the accounts by referring to our work to develop more reliable and



sustainable sources of income. He advised that our present financial situation reflected our investment in Toc H's future.

**Ted Tunnadine** (Guest and former Hon Treasurer) complimented Gerry on his comprehensive report of the accounts, particularly on the 'look-ahead'. He endorsed the need for more money to come into the Movement.

**Chris Williams** (Chair, West Midlands and South Wales Region) spoke of the benefits of high quality literature to promote Toc H, and said that the brochures produced at Wendover in support of the Cannock Chase project have brought in substantial sums of money. **Nora Bloxham** agreed that good leaflets are a great help.

**Mary Edwards** thanked Gerry for the 'enormous amount of hard work that had gone into the accounts' and said that a lot of dedication and a tremendous amount of commitment were involved.

The business of Council then moved on to individual motions:

## The Role of the Regional Chairman

**Harold Naylor** (South East Region) proposed that in future it wouldn't be necessary for a regional chairman to be a current Central Councillor provided that he/she had been a member for at least two years, would not be able to hold office for more than six years, and was formally proposed and seconded in the correct manner. Harold pointed out the urgency of the situation for the South East Region and stressed that they had an excellent chairman who had formulated his plans and needed time to put them into action.

The Motion was seconded by **Beryl Collins** (South East Region) who emphasised the quandry of the South East Region whose chairman, **Doug Parker**, had already completed two terms of three years at Council and therefore would not be eligible to continue as Regional Chair under the current procedure - even though he had only served two years as Regional Chairman.

A heated debate followed.

**Neal Terry** (CEC) said that the entire membership structure needed reviewing and that the present unwieldy structure hinders the Movement, making it 'too remote from the job on the ground'. He felt that the work of the Movement is being hampered by too much time spent on committees.

**Tamara McCormack**, the Central Council member for Germany and attending her first Council, strongly supported the motion and pointed out that, with the present restriction, she was the only person eligible to represent the regional council in Germany, as she had no other Councillors to support her. With a more flexible system she would be able to create a German regional council from current membership.



*Tamara McCormack*

**Pat Turner** pointed out that the dilemma of the South East Region also applied to the Scottish Region. In support of the proposal, she pointed out that there is no prerequisite for treasurers to be Councillors - who had just as much responsibility as chairmen.

The motion was passed with a substantial majority.

## Targets for Staff

**Chris Williams** eloquently proposed a motion that staff and members should work in closer harmony and that Councillors in the region where staff are based should have some input in the setting of staff targets. She felt that potential opportunities were not being grasped and that the combination of membership and staff would have a much greater impact on our work. She insisted that development of Toc H must be membership based, *'Toc H is contagious but it takes a long time to catch it'*.



*Chris Williams*



**Tim Day**, Head of Development, said that a partnership between staff and members was essential, but that it was already encapsulated in the current target-setting process for staff. He strongly suggested that the motion should not be adopted.

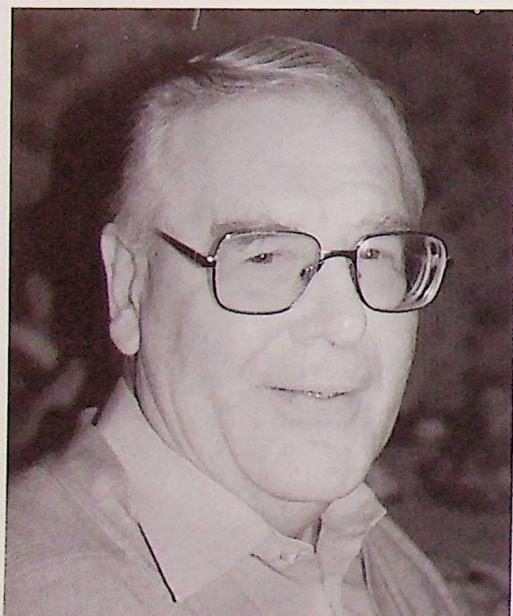
**Doug Parker**, **Jack Turner** and **Doug Geater Childs** were among those who supported the motion and **Betty Cornick** (Trustee) said that she would vote for the motion, but stressed that regions with staff were fortunate to be discussing such a problem, because her own region (Southern), had no staff at all!

In summing up, Chris pointed out that it was important to have an input into the targets of staff before they were written, to ensure that membership interest was reflected in those targets.

Although there was strong support for the motion, it was lost by a sizeable majority.

## Branch Communication

**Doug Parker** (Chairman, South Eastern Region), proposed that branches and groups should be encouraged to submit a report of their activities annually, when they submitted their annual accounts. He stressed that we needed to learn from each other and that this would be an ideal opportunity to find out what was going on in individual branches. There was a great deal of support for the motion and it was passed unanimously. This motion was greatly appreciated by your editor, who sees scope for a larger *Point three*, or a newsletter in which to share the additional information.



*Doug Parker*

## Blood Donor Campaign

**Mike Bullock** (West Midlands and South Wales Region) proposed a motion that Toc H should conduct a co-ordinated National Blood Donor Campaign, on a

specifically chosen day in early 1996, involving as many branches and groups as possible throughout Toc H.

This was seconded by **Chris Williams** and widely supported by members such as **Daphne Dawes**, **Freda Parker**, **John Weir**, **Tony Spencer**, **Marjorie Walker**, **Griff Griffiths** and **Colin Ridgeway**.



*Mike Bullock*

The motion was unanimously carried and the main business of Council was thereby completed.

**Mary Edwards** then presented a long-term service award to **Keith Rea**, who first joined the staff in 1936 and who retired in 1986. He had worked in the Accounts Department, was Finance Secretary, BAOR Commissioner and, finally, International Secretary.



*Mary Edwards and Keith Rea*

## The Director

**Mike Lyddiard** then addressed Council. He drew from his first year's experience as Director. He spoke of the need to re-establish Toc H as a nationally recognised Movement, helping to build communities where everyone is wanted and loved. He stressed the need to keep things simple, and thereby encourage participation in the good ideas,



new pieces of work as well as the core work and activities of the Movement. He was concerned that the creative aspects of our work were in danger of being hampered by too many rules and regulations, and stressed the need to practise the real Toc H by keeping an open door and an open mind. He spoke of the need to combine this with sensible planning and emphasised that the way forward was through our Strategic Plan and opening our minds to all opportunities. He said that risks taken in faith have always been and remained an essential part of Toc H activity. He looked forward to the creation of a network of 'Friends' or 'Toc H Partners', through our Community Initiative Campaign - we need to widen our contacts. Faith with action was his entreaty.

Mike spoke for 25 minutes and Councillors showed their support with rousing enthusiasm.

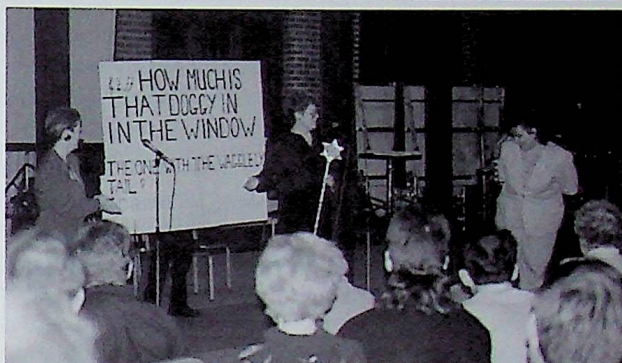


Mike Lyddiard

With business over for the day, the editor joined **Ann Gibson** (Levenmouth Branch, attending her first Council), **Marjorie Christie** (Strathclyde District, who is stepping down from Council this year), **Jessie Wheelan** (Levenmouth Branch) and **Margaret Stein** (Ayr Branch) for a 'wee dram of the malt'. This was a reunion of firm friends and the photo below shows where a lot of the 'fun' of Council took place!



Ann, Marjorie, Jessie & Margaret



A 'Diversions' evening of home-grown entertainment revealed acting and singing skills.

## Brann Marketing Presentation

**Joe Saxton**, Director of the Specialist Fundraising Unit, Brann Marketing, gave a presentation about the value of direct marketing and unveiled the new Community Initiative plans for Toc H. He gave some very convincing statistics about the value of fundraising and direct marketing and about creating a vehicle for fundraising. It was a most impressive presentation, which was enthusiastically received and stimulated much interest and discussion.



Joe Saxton



Sunday concluded with a very well presented explanation of CAMEOs by the National CAMEO Chair, **Helen James**. She spoke of joining Toc H over 10 years ago through Projects and her six years' experience on the CEC. Helen described herself as, 'a traditional member who wants new people to experience the same magic and sense of belonging to a real family.' **David Harrison**, National Development Officer for CAMEOs, emphasised the great potential of CAMEOs, and quoted from reports in November's *Point three*.

An excellent session concluded with **Ian Moore**, a Community Policeman who has just been elected to the CEC. Ian said he had first got involved with Toc H five years ago, through Projects, and he had gone on to do leadership training. He described his work in the Inner City of Bristol, with people living in sky-rise flats, and his work with Youth Clubs. He spoke about racial hostility and the prejudice he encounters as a policeman. Ian said that he had found that our differences are far outweighed by our similarities as human beings. He believed that the value of CAMEOs, in getting behind prejudice, was inestimable. As a policeman, he was aware of the enormous problems caused by misunderstanding, ignorance and conflict and that CAMEOs were significant in helping to overcome such problems. It was a deeply moving personal testimony, described with humility - which made the impact of his words particularly effective.

**David Hill**, National Development Officer for Friendship Circles, then spoke very articulately about Circles. He began with a challenge, saying that Circles had been in existence for 19 years, and yet how often did members visit a Circle - or, indeed, how many had ever visited one? He felt that members were in a good position to set up Circles themselves - **Sylvia Pratt** and **Joyce Beeken** have done just this! He said that, while these were certainly special people, they were not unique, and that there were other people who were capable of doing the same.

David said that an excellent training package was available and that a lot of help could be offered. He enthused about the foresight of Newbury Branch, who were trying to set up a Friendship Circle for people with Multiple Sclerosis. He said he would like to see Circles for different categories of need, and would like to see 48 in place of the 24 we now have. He emphasised that our main requirement was to help people recovering from mental illness.

## Farewells

Four people were leaving the CEC - **Laurie Tuckey**, **John Evans**, **Arthur Heffernan** and **Adrian Dudman**. Mary offered warm thanks to them. She also thanked the **Revd David Mayhew**, who is leaving the staff after 14 years of being based in Newcastle (*see this month's editorial*) and the **Revd Neil Llewellyn**, Chaplain at Talbot House, who leaves Toc H at the end of December. **David Hill** would be retiring before Council next met, and his work over the last six years was also mentioned with enthusiasm and appreciation.

## Behind the Scenes

Council could not possibly take place without the considerable work of Administrative Officer **Barbara Martin**, which Mary fully acknowledged.



*Barbara Martin*

Behind the scenes, reliably ensuring that the sound system was functioning properly and that an adequate record was made of proceedings, was Paderborn Development Officer **John Bainbridge**.



*John Bainbridge*

It was most encouraging to see how many of our younger members are beginning to play a key role at Conference - **Helen James**, **Neal Terry**, **Anne Puddicombe**, **Matthew Plumridge**, **Rob Dixon**, **Tamara McCormack**, **Ian Moore**.... I left Council thinking that these very articulate members are inspirational, and they make one really believe that Toc H has a clear future.

And last, but by no means least, a photograph to inspire us to look to that future. **Eve Dunwell**....



*Eve Dunwell*

**Ruth Boyd**



## ...And the last word from the Director....

The secret of a good recipe, I was once reliably informed by my grandmother, is to mix all the different elements in such a way that the resulting dish is not dominated by one particular ingredient. This should give a subtle blend of flavours that excites the palate and leaves one wanting a second helping.

Such thinking sums up my overall impression of Central Council 1994. As with any good Toc H gathering, we had an excellent mix of people - which was reflected in many aspects of the Council, not least by the wide variety of views expressed in the various debates which took place both in and out of the formal sessions.

I have to confess to having had some apprehensions as this year's Central Council, my first as Director, drew near. There was, in my mind, a very real danger of Central Council perhaps being dominated by one particular issue - such as finance, which, given our present circumstances,

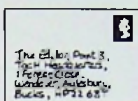
would have been entirely understandable. It didn't happen. If it had it might have destroyed the impact of 12 months' unstinting hard work given by so many members and staff in their efforts to blend together all the various ingredients for Toc H's future, as set out in the Long Term Strategic Plan.

It seemed as if every single member attending Central Council recognised, not just the urgency, but also, perhaps more importantly, the need to put aside differences and, in the true spirit of the Toc H Compass, to go forward as one in faith.

I suppose, if I am honest, I had half expected a fair proportion of Councillors and members to be feeling downcast, perhaps even defeated, but this was far from the case. As with the Staff Gathering in October at Launde Abbey, I left Council on Sunday enthused and excited by the overwhelming desire, expressed by all, that the time has come for action.

**Mike Lyddiard** ■

## Your Letters



### The Scottish Conference

I have just returned from an excellent Conference at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane.

We had an encouraging and hard working team, comprising Tom Elliott, Barry Englefield, Stuart Wroe and the Revd David Mayhew. They provided us with plenty of ideas and hope for our branches in the future, with the promise of further visits, help with recruiting and any other problems that might arise.

They also gave us fellowship, support, comfort and spiritual uplift, with friendly banter and fun helping to forge a sense of partnership. Ethel and Mabel join me in our thanks and praise.

**Sheila Forsyth, Coupar Angus**

### Please Save Those Stamps

Members of Hazel Grove Branch were pleased to read the reminder from Tony Cock (*Point three*, September-Letters) about used postage stamps.

A colleague has upwards of 500 pairs of spectacles and continues to receive them. We would like to know where they can be sent to do the most good. Can anyone help with this information?

If any members have books about Toc H that are no longer required, the Toc H Library Service here at Hazel Grove would be pleased to receive them.

**Edward Pym**

10 Alderley Close, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1XA

### In Memory of the Revd Bob Knight

Can I take this opportunity to thank all Toc H friends who sent me letters and cards of sympathy for Bob's death. Also to thank the many who sent donations to the Coronary Care Research, in his memory. I can only hope and pray that this work will mean that others do not have to face the pain of loss that I am now suffering.

I would also like to make a plea. Bob never smoked, but the doctors feel that he suffered a great deal from the effects of passive smoking - as over the years he spent hours in smoke filled rooms. Can I ask that the smokers among you consider this and that meetings can from now on be held in 'smoke free zones'?

Any further donations for Coronary Care Research may be sent to me, and I will pass them on to Dr Jackson. Over £700 has already been sent.

Thank you.

**Margery Knight**

29 Orchard Rise, Croydon CRO 7QZ

### A Request to Toc H Branches

The Statement of Re-affirmation says that Toc H is a journey of discovery and that part of this is the journey outwards - the development of loving relationships in every sphere of life. It is a practical testing out of the principles expressed in the life of Jesus.

As part of my role in training would-be Baptist ministers at Regent's Park College, Oxford, I am seeking to explore the ways in which faith and life relate to each other. I am concerned to understand the questions that faith raises for the whole of life.

I should be most grateful if you would write and tell me about the various practical initiatives that your branch is taking in developing 'A Faith to Live By'.

**Revd Dr John D Weaver**

Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford OX1 2LB

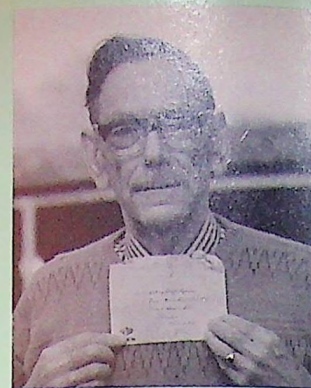


# BRANCH NEWS

## Welcome to 16 New Members

Patrick J Raven, Valerie A Raven (Anstey J)  
Gertrude Hart, Joyce M Sully (Elmstead J)  
Ann Fell, Karen L Fell, Claire Grey, Philip Grey,  
Michael Hicks, Brian D Pollock (Gwynedd District)  
William Carolan, Dorothy I Sutherland (Hythe J)  
Doris Heath (Long Eaton J)  
Vera E Smith (Newcastle Staffs J)  
Andrew J Egginton (S Staffs & Wulfrun District)  
Barry S Englefield (South Yorkshire District)

Snapped by the editor at Council, John Weir shows off his new title in Toc H! A letter arrived addressed to The 'Toc H Call My Bluff Organiser', c/o Burnt House Lane Post Office. **South West Region** are having a competition with that title as part of the 80th birthday celebrations.



Peg Guile writes: '**North East Region** gave a farewell party for Ann Crouch, who has retired as National Friendship Circle Officer. Guests arrived from many parts of the Region and beyond, including Ruth Boyd, Editor of Point three, and Regional Chaplain David Mayhew, who paid a fitting tribute to Ann for all her splendid work in Toc H.'

**Editor's note:** Ann retired at the end of October after 14 years as a member of staff. She will continue to be an active member of Oatlands Branch. We wish her every happiness in the future.



Grace Mosedale reports that members representing all branches of **Toc H Haywain District** met at Hamilton Lodge, Great Bromley, Essex, at the end of September to celebrate their 40 years' association. One of the 25-year-old oak trees along the drive to the house was dedicated to Toc H in appreciation of the work that Toc H has undertaken on behalf of the residents (who have learning difficulties) and for their continued friendship. Pat Dykes, Assistant Manager of Hamilton Lodge, is seen presenting a certificate to George Berry of **Ipswich Branch**. All the branches in the District were given a Certificate in remembrance of the occasion.



Members of **Hoddesdon** and **Potters Bar and Goffs Oak Branch** helping to raise funds for Khasdobir. They raised £100 by holding various events, including a tombola stall and a 'grocer's shop'.

Students at the Freshers Fair at Oxford Brookes University sign up with Toc H....



**Hartley Wintney Men's Branch** were reunited with former member Ivan Mason in the summer. He was accompanied by Noel Alexander, President of Toc H Victoria. Ivan emigrated to Australia in 1960. Over supper, Toc H experiences were exchanged and a firm pen-pal relationship is sure to follow.





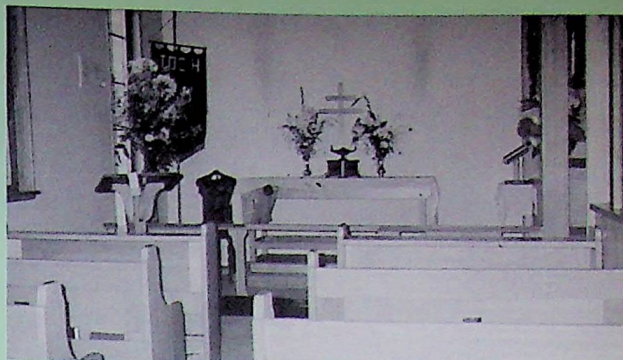
**The Anglo German Conference** was held at Cuddesdon on 8-11 September. Helen Kuhl writes that the structure of Toc H and the structure and role of a Regional Council and its Committee were explained. The recommendations for the Regional Council in Germany, made in Paderborn earlier this year, were clarified and provisional solutions discussed - leading to a general agreement on a possible basis for Toc H in Germany. There were three very effective brainstorming sessions about a five-year plan to establish Toc H in Germany. Helen would like to thank members for their support and interest and for the effort which made this Conference such a success.



During the summer months **Exeter Branch** provided three outings for the patients of Redhills House Day Hospital in Exeter. Trips were made to Dartmoor, Brixham and Paignton. Denis Giles sent in the photograph, which was taken on the Paignton outing.



Congratulations to Mervyn and Amy Bellringer of **Lymington Branch** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding in October. They have both been members since the early days of Toc H.



Herbert Eliyathamby, Honorary Area Commissioner for **Toc H Victoria**, sent in this photo of the Toc H chapel at Ocean Grove. The chapel was built in 1960 by members of Toc H Ocean Grove Branch, which closed in the 1960s. The chapel is part of St Peter's Church and has the Toc H Cross prominently displayed on the front face of the church. Thirteen pews in the chapel were donated by individual branch members. The presence of the chapel was only rediscovered in mid-1993 by the Victoria HQ from old records. Past members were contacted and 12 joined in the World Chain of Light Ceremony there last year.

**Toc H Victoria** is arranging a get-together of all past Ocean Grove area members for a lunch at the Toc H Children's Holiday Camp at Port Lonsdale - 10 km from Ocean Grove. They want to involve them with voluntary work at the Camp. Ocean Grove is 120 km from Melbourne City. This year's World Chain of Light will be held in Melbourne by Area Chaplain, John Brownbill, and at Ocean Grove by the Revd Robert Ireland. Victoria HQ celebrates 70 years in 1995 and will be joining in the Share The Peace vigil.

**Biggleswade Ladies Branch** made the kneeler shown in the photo for St Andrew's Church, Biggleswade. Robert, vicar of the church, is their Branch Padre.



Larry Holt Kentwell, of Cumnor, Oxford, writes that he is getting our name mentioned in his local parish news. He wonders whether other branches are using their parish magazine to spread the word about Toc H?

**Buckingham Branch** Member Rico De Angeli and his wife Joan were among the first Channel Tunnel train passengers from Folkestone to Calais. They went on the inaugural journey and spent the weekend visiting the Pegasus Bridge and the war cemetery where some of his comrades are buried. Last time, Rico parachuted in, to hold Pegasus Bridge for the D-Day landings: 'I was thrilled to bits to be able to go. It was an emotional return, but it was fantastic to travel through the Tunnel. It is a great feat of engineering', said Rico.





### Farewell to Berlin

The photo shows the last day of the Toc H Services Club in Berlin which closed on 29 September after 50 years service to the British Army. Development Officer Jane Bridgeman writes: 'the taking down of the sign was a very emotional experience'.

**Brandon and Cambridge Branches** recently raised money for the Brandon Health Centre and the photo shows members presenting a coffee maker to staff at the centre.

### Staff Appointments: Welcome to new members of staff:

**Jay Gent**, part-time Development Officer for Friendship Circles in Plymouth (this post is externally funded). Jay joined the staff in August.

**Heather Ranasinghe**, part-time Development Officer for Friendship Circles in Bedford. Heather joined the staff in October.

**Jennifer Carlon and Johanna Whiteside**, Development Officers, Cheshire, who joined the staff on 1 December. (Both posts are externally funded).

**Mike Rowlands**, LTV for Cannock Chase, who joined the staff on 4 July.

## The Scottish Conference at Dunblane - 8-9 October

Glorious autumn sunshine was an added bonus to a weekend of wonderful fellowship, which was full of honesty. The Conference theme was *Creating a Partnership - Members and Staff Working Together*.

The opening session involved the Divisional Staff Team explaining our roles, describing our professional backgrounds and examining how the Members in Scotland could put the Strategic Plan into action, with our support and encouragement.

Four intensive workshops were then run, which looked at how, in partnership with Members, we could assist in revitalising Toc H north of the border. Tom Elliott, Membership Support Officer, and Barry Englefield, Training Officer, spent some time exploring the work of the Scottish Branches, looking towards future developments in the *Stretch and Grow* session. We filled six flip-charts with details of work north of the border. Toc H in Scotland is quietly and effectively going about its real Toc H service.

*Stretch and Grow* was followed by *The Recruitment Package*, which looked at all aspects of the problem. We concentrated on the need to recruit new people into our Branches, recognising that the prerequisite was to first answer some difficult questions with openness and honesty.

The first day's work was rounded off by Stuart Wroe, Divisional PR and Appeals Officer, in looking at new ways of raising funds and promoting our Toc H work through a PR/FR Workshop. Jim Beveridge, Scottish Chairman, marvelled that some 60 new fundraising ideas were

suggested by the Membership in a brainstorming session.

The Conference Organiser, Isabella Baird, brought the evening to a reflective end, assisted by some of her colleagues, with a very appropriate theme of contemplation. The men were then given permission to cross the road to the Tappet Hen for half an hour! We managed to smuggle out one or two ladies as well, who all the while protested that drink only passed their lips for medicinal purposes. What a poorly lot!

A Sunday of great beauty dawned and a stroll round the Cathedral grounds made us all the more ready for a hearty breakfast of rib-sticking porridge. Holy Communion was led by the Revd David Mayhew in the chapel, which dates from the 13th century. A very special time of sharing.

David then led the fourth and final session, looking at Prayer; how Jesus prayed, how we pray individually and in Branches, and how we could further develop the prayer aspect of our lives. An excellent way to end an excellent Conference.

For me, the Conference once more proved how Toc H is a family of very fine people. Driving away through the autumnal Stirlingshire countryside, I felt that we were leaving true friends behind. I strongly believe that the future of Toc H in Scotland is in very good hands and, together with Members, my colleagues and I wish to see a great rebirth North of the Border. It will and can be achieved through hard work and honesty, of which there is plenty, and a very real partnership between members and staff.

**Stuart Wroe**  
Division One PR and Appeals Officer





## Overseas Development Fund Christmas Appeal 'To Love Widely...'



**In Zimbabwe.** Zimbabwe is a country of great beauty, and great need. Toc H in Zimbabwe is struggling. Branches, although mainly elderly, are busy in neighbourly service, be it in old people's homes or with homeless men and women.

Toc H in Zimbabwe is seeking to develop, to play its full part in bringing people together, black and white, to build a better community, and help people discover a faith to live by.

Through the *Overseas Development Fund*, Toc H in the UK is supporting our Zimbabwean brothers and sisters. This year £6000 paid for one Development Officer and a second-hand Toyota car. In February the Fund will send £4500 to cover the 1995 salary of the Development Officer.

**In India.** Most people in India live very close to the land. When the land suffers, through drought or earthquake, the people suffer. And there has been much suffering this year. Inevitably some people are worse affected, perhaps through the death of the wage earner, or just bad luck.

Toc H is thriving in Trivandrum, South India. The local branch is now working with those in Trivandrum who have endured the greatest hardship. Many are widows, often young and with families. Others have been driven to alcoholism. They live in

poverty on the river bank, in constant threat of flooding and water-borne disease.

The Trivandrum Branch, supported by the Overseas Development Fund, is working to give these people a chance to live in dignity, earning an honest wage. A chance to leave the river bank, and move away from the constant threat of flooding and disease.

The *Overseas Development Fund* has already sent £4000 to the Trivandrum Branch and has promised more.

*We are one family. We pray for the family around the world. It is only right that we should also support each other through practical giving.*

### 'To Love Widely...' Please Give Generously

Please send your donation to:

Ian Pearce, Toc H Overseas Development Fund  
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. HP22 6BT

*PS We have some spare collecting boxes - please write in*

## Tributes

We regret to announce the death of the following members

In July - Denis A Willmetts (St Helier)

In September - James L Dunkley (Haywain District)  
Joseph W Fox (South Devon District)  
Dorothy Hayward (Chirk)  
Priscilla Mathers (Cheadle Hulme)  
Sybil J Millward (Watford)  
Ella A Sanders (Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale)  
John D N Todd (Haywain District)

In October - Winifred M Brinded (Broadland District)  
Henry 'Harry' C Coutts (London District Branch)  
Winifred M Fisher (Plympton)  
Gertrude Maddison (Alston)  
Harold 'Norman' Parker (S E Regional Branch)  
Sydney W 'Smudger' Smith (Broadland District)  
Ella S Watson (Greenbank)  
Daisy Williamson (Enfield)

In November - Kenneth A Rogers (North Bucks with Oxford District)  
Not previously recorded - Ethel Elliott (Broadland District)

**Sybil Millward**, who died on 28 September, first joined Toc H in 1929 and was a member of the Harrow Branch and, latterly, Watford Branch. Sybil was a supreme example of the ideals upheld by Toc H and spent all her life in service for others. She was also a true friend and through her I became a member of Toc H. She will be sadly missed and always remembered. **AM**

Enfield Women's Branch are sad to report the loss of their secretary of many years, **Daisy (Stan) Williamson**. She was 84 and died after a short illness. Many members across the country will remember Daisy from the Elsa Perrin holiday trips. Before she joined the branch she helped Elsa in various ways, preparing lunches for the SE Region Council meetings and working in the garden at Prideaux House. Daisy also collected clothing for the Prideaux House charity shop. After joining the Branch in 1975, she undertook any duties required of her and was soon in office.

She was concerned for branch members and their families and would always lend an ear to anyone needing reassurance. The Revd Gualter de Mello, who took the Service, paid tribute to Daisy in his address. We shall certainly miss her immensely. **DD**

A founder member of Chirk Branch, **Dorothy Hayward** died in September at the age of 92. She was an active member until a few weeks before her death and will be greatly missed. **BP**

**Winifred Mary Brinded** died suddenly on 17 October. She had been a member of Toc H for over 50 years, first with the Great Yarmouth Women's Branch and later was one of the founder Gorleston Women members. She then helped to establish a branch at Bradwell where she worked until its closure, after which she became a member of the Broadland District. She always took a great interest in Toc H work and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. **PMB**

**Sydney 'Smudger' Smith**, who died in October, joined Great Yarmouth Branch in the mid 30s, later transferring to Gorleston Branch. A very active and knowledgeable man, he was continually on the lookout to help other people with their problems. In 1963 he became the General Secretary of the Great Yarmouth Scouts Association and kept in touch with Toc H as a District Member. The large congregation attending his funeral service was a splendid tribute and indicative of his impact upon the community. **CAB**

**Harold Norman Parker** passed away on 4 October at the age of 87. He had belonged to Toc H for many years, first with Harrow Weald Branch and then the South East Regional Branch. A fit and active man, he was a strong supporter of Toc H and will be missed by his family and many friends. **GP**

**Cilla Mathers**, a founder member of Cheadle Hulme Branch and former member of Stockport Branch, died on 22 September. She was a devoted and diligent member who loved Toc H and will be sadly missed. The Parish Church was filled with her family and friends during the funeral service and the Ceremony of Light was taken by a Branch member. **JG**

**Denis Willmetts**, a member of St Helier Branch for over 58 years, died in July. He held many branch offices, including secretary and chairman and represented the Channel Islands at Central Council. He will be sadly missed. **FL**





# TOC H

Charity No. 211042

Toc H is a national charity with a non-denominational Christian heritage and with a committed membership and workforce. We exist to foster understanding and to overcome divisions in society by bringing together a diversity of people, promoting community service and helping people to discover a faith to live by.

## CHAPLAIN (DIVISION ONE)

We are seeking a Divisional Chaplain who will offer pastoral care and spiritual development for our Members and staff and those with whom we come in contact.

Based in the Leeds area, you will be expected to travel extensively throughout the Division which encompasses Scotland, the whole of the North East of England and Eastern Counties as far south as Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Starting salary will be within the range £11,765 to £12,655, rising by increments to a maximum of £17,575 per annum. A car will be provided and housing is available if necessary. There is a voluntary contributory pension scheme.

Knowledge and/or experience of the work of Toc H would be an advantage.

Further details and application form from:  
The Personnel Officer,  
Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury,  
Bucks HP22 6BT  
Telephone: (0296) 623911

Closing date 22 December, 1994

## World Chain of Light 1994

### Cuddesdon Vigil

A World Chain of Light vigil will be held at Cuddesdon House from 6.30pm Sunday 11 December to 9pm Monday 12 December.

Our theme this year will be *Peace in Our Time* and the speaker will be Patricia Pulham, one of the co-Chairs of Christian CND. You are welcome to join us for part or all of the vigil.

*For further details please contact:*

John Mitchell, 94 Burcott Lane, Birtton, Aylesbury,  
Bucks HP22 5AS. Tel: 0296 435929

## Poetry Competition

As part of the 1995 Celebrations, Toc H will be running an Open Poetry Competition on the theme of The Human Spirit. We are delighted to have the support of the poet Jamie McKendrick in this venture. Jamie will judge the competition and present the prizes during the afternoon of Sunday 28 May at a Toc H Inter-Faith Festival at Cuddesdon House. Jamie will also be giving a reading from his own published work.

We are hoping that this innovative project for the celebratory year will raise the profile of Toc H both nationally and locally.

Further information and an application form for entry can be obtained from Jackie Bartlett or Ruth Boyd at Headquarters.

## Growing with Adversity

at  
Wortley Hall, Wortley, Sheffield  
for the weekend 31 March - 2 April 1995

- In our everyday lives we are faced by adversity which can frequently leave us feeling low and on occasions inadequate.
- This event is designed to look at both Toc H and personal adversity and to help us to recognise the learning we gain from experiencing it.
- From recognising what happens to us in adversity we may be better able to 'grow' with it.

### For further information please contact:

Bill Bains,  
28 Rockingham Road, Pendas Fields,  
Leeds LS15 8UL  
Tel: 0532 640256

## Councillors' Conference

24-26 February  
1995

The first Councillors' Conference will be held on 24-26 February 1995 at Wortley Hall, near Sheffield. Those Councillors who attended Central Council should already have details of this important event. If you were not handed a letter of invitation, or did not attend Council and would like information, please contact Janet Graves at Headquarters.

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

## Falmouth Toc H Holiday House

Accommodation for 5 plus cot.  
Open all year.  
Enquiries Ron Galiss - Tel: 0326 312689